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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,898	01/17/2002	Hegeon Kwun	090936.0445	1790

31625 7590 07/08/2003

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EXAMINER

FAYYAZ, NASHMIYA SAQIB

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2856

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/051,898

Applicant(s)

KWUN ET AL.

Examiner

Nashmiya S. Fayyaz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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1. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, on line 10, is the "probe" reference difference from the "probe" on line 5 as implied by the "a"? On line 21, "occurance" should be -- occurrence --. On line 25, again are there two probes or one probe at 2 positions. As in the specification. In the last 2 lines of claim 1, "the shared path" lacks antecedent basis. In claims 8 and 9, "occurrence" is misspelled. In claim 9, "the median time" on line 4 lacks antecedent basis.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spisak et al - US patent #5,591,912.

As to claims 1-11, Spisak et al. disclose a method and apparatus for ultrasonic inspection of a conduit including directing a first ultrasonic pulse at the conduit and receiving reflection data, and directing a second pulse and receiving reflections, comparing the received sounds (23/23') include sounds such as from a crack C or deposit (24/24'), (35/35') plotting the reflected sounds versus time and laying them over one another to determine overlap i.e. time-shifting and determining coincidence where overlap would be indicative of a defect, see co. 4, lines 21 et seq.

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Further, it is noted that Spisak et al. fail to disclose usage of a "long range wave" or detection of "peak" signals. However, it is noted that "long range" is a relative term with no range provided in the claims. Therefore, specification of the pulses disclosed by Spisak et al. as "long range" would have been a matter of design choice as a relative term based on the size of the conduit being evaluated. As to detecting of peak signals, it is well-known in the art of ultrasonic that peaks represent a signal response as the received wave will have many components and the peak is generally termed the "reflected sound" as indicated by Spisak et al. As to claim 3, see col. 6, lines 14-20. As to claims 4 and 5, usage of the frequency domain as an alternative to the time domain is old and well-known in the art of ultrasonics. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of ultrasonics at the time of the invention to have employed the frequency domain as an equivalent alternative to the time domain as a matter of design choice known in the art. As to claims 6 and 7 note the establishment of a baseline" in the reflected sound plots. As to claim 9, as best understood, Spisak et al. Refer to "data processing" to enhance distinction between noise and reflected sounds produced by defects which is known to be accomplished via thresholds. As to claim 10, the type of probe is not disclosed as "magnetostrictive". However, magnetostrictive transducers are old and well-known in the art of ultrasonic pipe testing. Therefore, usage of magnetostrictive transducers is considered to have been a matter of design choice obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

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4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N. Fayyaz at telephone number 305-4891.


fayyaz/ds

06/23/03

HELEN KWOK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

